

Remarks: Tomas Rivera Policy Institute Gala  
Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Biltmore Hotel  
May 29, 2008  
Tribute to Dr. Harry Pachon

"It is never easy to properly highlight the talents and contributions of an individual's life. This is especially true when paying tribute to a friend as accomplished as Dr. Harry Pachon.

When preparing my comments, I decided to ask members of my family what came to mind when they thought about Harry. Words like sincere, talented, committed, ethical and loyal repeated themselves.

My family's assessment was based on the many years Harry served as Chief of Staff for my late father Congressman Edward R. Roybal and Dr. Pachon's years as Executive Director and Chairman of the Board of the NALEO Education Fund.

As many of you know public service was my father's passion. To help him achieve his goals, my father chose people who shared his passion and his commitment.

And he chose people with the talent and expertise to help him use his elected power to cast lines of hope, opportunity and empowerment to the disenfranchised and powerless in our society.

Indeed, Dr. Harry Pachon was one of those people.

An example that exemplifies Dr. Pachon's talents and vision, and the one with which I am the most familiar, was his work with the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, better known as NALEO.

To help empower Latinos, my father founded NALEO to create a national network of elected and appointed officials that would begin to fill the void in advocacy, opportunity and civic participation that existed for Latinos in Washington and throughout the country when he was elected to Congress in 1962.

As its Executive Director, Dr. Pachon made many noteworthy accomplishments.

To enhance and strengthen NALEO'S Latino network, he initiated the National Directory of Latino Elected Officials.

In its 24<sup>th</sup> year of publication, the directory provides information on six thousand Latino elected or appointed officials across our country.

This directory is widely used by local and state legislators, Members of Congress, community organizations and businesses throughout our nation.

In keeping with his commitment to empower the Latino community, Dr. Pachon also initiated NALEO'S nationally acclaimed U.S. citizenship program. This program is so successful that it has been replicated across the country on a multi-ethnic basis.

In 1999, the NALEO Board of Directors named the civic engagement department after Dr. Pachon in appreciation for his vision and contributions to empowering the Latino community.

With the limited time I have, I can only use Dr. Pachon's work with NALEO as a mere snapshot of his many talents and accomplishments.

I would be remiss however, if I did not pay tribute to Dr. Harry Pachon's outstanding work as President and CEO of The Tomás Rivera Policy Institute.

With Congress facing some of the most pressing issues affecting Latinos in our nation's history, the information and insights provided by the institute is invaluable to helping Members of Congress develop effective, fair and just policies.

In closing, I salute Dr. Harry Pachon for making The Tomás Rivera Policy Institute our nation's premier research institute on Latino issues.

And I salute him for all of his achievements which have had a positive and far reaching effect on the quality of life of Latinos and underrepresented communities throughout our country.

I am truly honored to call him my friend."

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